

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-10
/076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4268
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJ: ALLON ON SADAT'S WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION GIVEN US BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY OF AN INFORMATION CABLE SENT TO ISRAELI POSTS
ABROAD ON DEC 30:

2. BEGIN TEXT: APPEARING TODAY AT RAMAT GAN FOREIGN MINISTER
ALLON SAID:

3. IF IN FACT THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HAS RETREATED FROM HIS
SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THIRD STATE BETWEEN THE SEA
AND THE DESSERT AND HE SUPPORTS THE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINE
PROBLEM IN A JORDANIAN CONTEXT, THAN THIS IS A POSITIVE DEVE-
LOPMENT IN THE EGYPTIAN POSITION. YET, OTHER THINGS SAID BY
SADAT IN THE SAME INTERVIEW SHOW A RIGIDITY IN THE EGYPTIAN
POSITION AND COULD ONLY
HAMPER THE REAL EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN THE AREA.
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4. ISRAEL HAS EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH
EVERY ONE OF ITS NEIGHBORS ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. FROM ISRAEL'S POINT OF VIEW THERE IS
NO IMPEDIMENT TO CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN ITS ORIGINAL
FORMAT ON THE BASIS OF THESE RESOLUTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF SADAT MEANT SINCERELY THAT THOSE RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE USED FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT HE HAS TO REFRAIN FROM PRESENTING PRIOR CONDITIONS TO THOSE RESOLUTIONS. EACH SIDE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE ALL THE POSITIONS AND THE DEMANDS THAT IT WISHES, BUT THERE CANNOT BE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS IF ONE TRIES TO DICTATE ITS RESULTS BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN REACHED.

5. THIS GOES TOO FOR SADAT'S NEW DEMANDS TO ADD LEBANON TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. WHEN THIS CONFERENCE WILL CONVENE IN ITS ORIGINAL FORMAT THIS SUBJECT COULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE SIDES. IN FACT, THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTED VEHEMENTLY SADAT'S DEMAND THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETREAT TO THE 1967 BORDERS AND DEFINED THIS DEMAND AS RIGID AND UNREALISTIC. ISRAEL CANNOT RENOUNCE DEFENSIBLE BORDERS.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT IF THE ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD APPROACH NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL WITH THE SAME GOODWILL WHICH ISRAEL HAS, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT WOULD GIVE ISRAEL DEFENSIBLE BORDERS ESSENTIAL TO ANY AGREEMENTS AND WOULD ANSWER TO A LARGE EXTENT THE REAL INTERESTS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING A CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE QUESTION.

8. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTED SADAT'S ATTEMPT TO CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO BRING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. HE STRESSED THAT

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THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE CONFLICT IS
FREE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SIDES WITHOUT PRESSURE
AND WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD ONLY HAMPER
THEM.
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